

WELCOME ADDRESS BY MS LOW KHAH GEK, CEO/ITE, AT ignITE SKILLS CHALLENGE FINALS, ON 23 MAY 2018, AT 2:30PM, AT TAY ENG SOON CONVENTION CENTRE, LEVEL 4, ITE HEADQUARTERS

Associate Professor Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim

Senior Parliamentary Secretary

Ministry of Education & Ministry of Social and Family Development

Colleagues from MOE, Singapore Science Centre and ITE

Competitors of ignITE Challenge

Students, Ladies and Gentlemen

Introduction

- 1 Let me start by thanking SPS Faishal for officiating the event today.
- 2 The ignITE Skills Challenge is a unique skills competition. It is the **only** national-level skills competition that is organised **exclusively** for 'Normal Academic and Technical' students.
- 3 Since we started organising the competition three years ago, we have seen more students and schools participating. This year, we have **1,569 students from 66 schools** participating. Of these, **390 students from 48 schools** qualified for today's finals.

The Joy of Learning

- 4 At ITE, we strongly believe in the effectiveness of hands-on and applied learning. We have carefully designed the activities for the secondary school participants to enjoy the fun side of skills education, as well as appreciate the value of skills application in our daily lives.
- 5 There are three parts to this competition. First, the **learning part** - students who sign up for ignITE Challenge are taught skills and

knowledge related to the challenge, through a workshop run by ITE. Second, the **doing and application part** – students apply what they have learnt during the preliminary rounds to earn a place in the finals. Third, the **competition part** – today’s finals where students compete to show their skills competency, creativity and innovation. All participants will take away a new skill and an enriching experience. These takeaways are even more valuable than the medals and trophies that you see here!

Evolving ignITE Skills Competition

- 6 Beyond the usual STEM (or Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) challenges, this year’s ignITE Skills Challenge activities have been expanded to expose students to skills from Business & Services, and Design & Media. All the 13 challenges are linked to courses offered at ITE and we hope all participating students will be a step closer to discovering their passion, aptitude and career inclination.
- 7 This year, we have introduced a new Overall Challenge Trophy to recognise the one school with the highest points achieved by her students’ performance in the various challenges.

Appreciation

- 8 We would like to thank school leaders and teachers for encouraging and enabling your students to participate in the ignite Skills Challenge, thus giving them an opportunity to learn, do, apply and discover.

9 We would also like to extend our appreciation to the Ministry of Education, Singapore Science Centre and all sponsors for your strong support.

Conclusion

10 Students, you have given your best efforts at the Finals today. Challenging yourself is the best way to discover yourself and your hidden potential. As SPS Faishal and I walked around earlier, we saw your creativity and quest for excellence and we are impressed!

11 Regardless of who eventually wins, I hope the ignITE Challenge experience have ignited in you the zeal to keep challenging yourself, the inspiration to continue learning, and the passion for experimentation and discovery.

Thank you.